

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

All amendments are shown with deleted text struckthrough or double bracketed and new text underlined.

Please amend Paragraph [0050] as follows:

[0050] VCM encoder **66** is coupled to channel encoder 64 and provides a spectral efficiency of 3 bps/Hz. Communication system **60** also includes a first and a second QPSK modulation units **72** and **74**, each coupled to VCM encoder **66**, a first antenna **82**, and a second antenna **84**. First and second antennas **82** and **84** are coupled to first and second modulation units **72** and **74**, respectively. A receiver antenna **90** connected to a receiver **92** is also shown. First and second modulation units **72** and **74** convert VCM-encoded QPSK symbols to one of Four possible values 1, j, -1 and -j. With VCM encoder **66**, communication system **60** is able to increase the data rate at DTCH unit **62** from approximately 384 kbps provided by a conventional STBC system to approximately 450.4 kbps.